

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 PA-01
PRS-01 USIA-06 OIC-02 /106 W
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R 121137Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7042

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PASS: STATE FOR NOSENZO; ERDA FOR SIEVERING; NRC FOR
SHAW

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OECD, ENRG, TECH
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES OF THE
NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE

1. THE MAIN ISSUE BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 14 MEETING
OF AN AD HOC NEA WORKING PARTY TO DISCUSS THE RE-
STRUCTURING OF THE STUDY GROUP ON THE LONG TERM ROLE
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (NELT) IS WHETHER TO ENLARGE THE
NELT MANDATE TO INCLUDE ALL FUTURE TECHNICAL AND
ECONOMIC STUDIES OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE (WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANGEMENT). A SECOND-
ARY ISSUE, PUSHED BY SECRETARIAT AND SOME MEMBER
COUNTRIES, IS WHETHER TO ELEVATE THE PRESENT NELT
STUDY GROUP TO QUOTE COMMITTEE UNQUOTE STATUS FOR
THE PURPOSE OF RAISING FUTURE MEMBER COUNTRY REPRES-
ENTATION FROM THE PRESENT MIDDLE LEVEL TECHNICAL
MANAGERS TO MORE POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS.

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2. THE TASKS WHICH THE SECRETARIAT ENVISAGES AS
FORMING THE BASIS FOR A NEW NELT MANDATE ARE IDEN-
TIFIED IN SECRETARIAT PAPER NE(77)5. MISSION NOTES
THAT THESE TASKS ENCOMPASS ALL OF THE SPECIFIC NUCLEAR
AREAS OUTLINED IN THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE JULY IEA
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING (IEA/GB(77)33) AS REQUIRING

SPECIAL AND EXPEDITIOUS ATTENTION. IN MISSION'S VIEW, WE SHOULD NOT GO ALONG WITH PROPOSED EXPANSION OF NELT WITHOUT FIRST GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO IMPLICATIONS THIS WOULD HAVE FOR IEA NUCLEAR PROGRAM. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REVIEW OPTIONS WHICH WE OUTLINED IN USOECD 07808. OUR CONCERN IS THAT TO EXPAND NELT MANDATE IN THIS SWEEPING A MANNER COULD BY PROVIDING OTHERS WITH GROUNDS FOR CLAIMING DUPLICATION OF EFFORT BETWEEN IEA AND NEA IMPEDE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEANINGFUL IEA PROGRAM IN NUCLEAR AREA. IF DEPARTMENT'S POLICY REMAINS TO LODGE POLICY DIRECTION IN IEA, WE SHOULD PROBABLY RESIST A BLANKET EXPANSION OF NELT MANDATE, AT LEAST UNTIL THIS FALL'S SCHEDULE OF IEA MEETINGS, INCLUDING MINISTERIAL, GIVES US A BETTER IDEA OF WHERE IEA IS HEADING.

3. IF OTHERS INSIST ON EARLY ACTION TO EXPAND NELT ROLE, IN OUR VIEW ITS WORK MIGHT MORE FRUITFULLY BE CHanneLED TOWARD BROADENED TECHNICAL COVERAGE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE ADVANCED REACTOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, PERHAPS IN COORDINATION WITH INFCE. NEA WORK COULD INCLUDE TECHNICAL STUDIES OF GAS COOLED-, MOLTEN SALT- AND LIGHT WATER-BREEDER REACTORS. TO

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INCLUDE THESE TASKS IN NELT WOULD CONSOLIDATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL NEA DEVELOPMENTAL WORK INTO ONE

BODY, IN LINE WITH AN EARLIER MISSION SUGGESTION.

4. WE DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME TO RECONSTITUTE NELT AS AN NEA PLENARY COMMITTEE. WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE NEA LONG-TERM NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTAL WORK DIRECTED BY A GROUP CONSISTING OF LESS THAN FULL NEA MEMBER COUNTRY REPRESENTATION, COMPOSED, FOR EXAMPLE, OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED TO STUDY THE SUBJECTS INCLUDED IN THE WORK PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING TO A STREAMLINING OF NEA OPERATIONS, A RESTRUCTURING OF THIS KIND WOULD ENSURE MORE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF NEA STEERING COMMITTEE IN THE WORK OF THE AGENCY.

5. MISSION SCIENCE ADVISER FOR ENERGY R&D WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON TDY AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 2 AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN DETAIL WITH ERDA AND STATE DEPARTMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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